

Verses, if not burden, by  
John Lydgate (d.1451)

# Ah, gentle Jesu

Sherynham  
*Fayrfax Book (c.1500)*  
BM Add MS 5465

Ah, gen - tle Je - su!

Ah, gen - tle Je - su!

Who is that that doth me call?

Who is that that doth me call?

This system contains the first four staves of the musical score. The first two staves are vocal parts with lyrics 'Ah, gen - tle Je - su!'. The third and fourth staves are instrumental parts with lyrics 'Who is that that doth me call?'. The music is in a medieval style with square neumes on a four-line staff.

I a sin - ner that oft doth fall. Mer - cy

I a sin - ner that oft doth fall. Mer - cy

What wouldst thou have?

What wouldst thou have?

This system contains the next four staves. The first two staves have lyrics 'I a sin - ner that oft doth fall. Mer - cy'. The third and fourth staves have lyrics 'What wouldst thou have?'. The music continues with square neumes.

Lord of thee I crave. yea, my ma - ker I call thee.

Lord of thee I crave. yea, my ma - ker I call thee.

Why, lovst thou me?

Why, lovst thou me?

This system contains the final four staves. The first two staves have lyrics 'Lord of thee I crave. yea, my ma - ker I call thee.'. The third and fourth staves have lyrics 'Why, lovst thou me?'. The music concludes with square neumes.

And think on this les - son that now I teach

Then leave thy sin or I nill thee And think on this les - son that now I teach

Then leave thy sin or I nill thee And think on this les - son that now I teach

Ah, I will I will gen - tle Je - su.

thee. Ah, I will I will gen - tle Je - su.

thee. Ah, I will I will gen - tle Je - su.

thee. Je - su.

1. Up - on the cross nai - led I was for thee,  
 2. My bloo - dy woun - des down rail - ing by this tree,  
 3. I had on Pe - ter and Mawd - len pi - ty;  
 4. Think a - gain pride sin - on ful my hu - mi - li - ty!  
 5. Lord, on all here kneel - ing on knee,

Bass

1. Up - on the cross nai - led I was for thee,  
 2. My bloo - dy wounds down rail - ing by this tree,  
 3. I had on Pe - ter and Mawd - len pi - ty;  
 4. Think a - gain pride sin - on ful my hu - mi - li - ty!  
 5. Lord, on all here kneel - ing on knee,

1. Suf - fered death to and pay thy com - ran - si -  
 2. Look on them well and have com - pas - si -  
 3. For - thi con - trite of thy con - tri - ti -  
 4. Come death to school, re of - cord well af - this les -  
 5. Thy death re - membring of hum - ble af - fec - ti -

Alto

1. Suf - fered death to and pay thy com - ran - si -  
 2. Look on them well and have com - pas - si -  
 3. For - thi con - trite of thy con - tri - ti -  
 4. Come death to school, re of - cord well af - this les -  
 5. Thy death re - membring of hum - ble af - fec - ti -

som; on; For The sake crown thy of sin thorn, man the for spear the love of les

on; Saint Tho - mas of In - des in cru - de - li -

son: on, Gain' O false Je - su en - vy grant thy think on my cha - ri - ni -

som; on; For The sake crown thy of sin thorn, man the for spear the love of les

on; Saint Tho - mas of In - des in cru - de - li -

son: on, Gain' O false Je - su en - vy grant thy think on my cha - ri - ni -

For The sake crown thy of sin thorn, man the

Saint Tho - mas of In - des

Gain' O false Je - su en - vy grant thy think of

For The sake crown thy of sin thorn, man the

Saint Tho - mas of In - des

Gain' O false Je - su en - vy grant thy think of

me three, to con - trite hearts I  
My heart riv-en for thy

ty Roll up this mat - ter, grave

ty, Why did I this? To  
ty Called thy five wounds by

me three, to con - trite hearts I do  
My heart riv - en for

ty Roll up this mat - ter, grave

ty, Why did I this? To  
ty Called thy five wounds by

Be re - pen-tant, make plain con - fes-si - on; to con - trite hearts I  
Pier-ced hand and foot of in - dig - na - ti - on; My heart riv - en for

He put his hands deep in my side a - down. Roll up this mat - ter, grave

My blood all spent by dis - til - la - ti - on. Why did I this? To  
That thy five wells plen - te - ous of fu - si - on, Called thy five wounds by

Be re - pen-tant, make plain con - fes - si - on; to con - trite hearts I  
Pier-ced hand and foot of in - dig - na - ti - on; My heart riv - en for

He put his hands deep in my side a - down. Roll up this mat - ter, grave

My blood all spent by dis - til - la - ti - on. Why did I this? To  
That thy five wells plen - te - ous of fu - si - on, Called thy five wounds by

do re - mis - si - on;  
re - demp - ti - on.

it in thy rea - son!

save thee from pri - son.  
com - pu - ta - ti - on,

re - mis - si - on;  
thy re - demp - ti - on.

it in thy rea - son!

save thee from pri - son.  
com - pu - ta - ti - on,

Be not de - spai - red  
Let now us twain

Sith that I am kind,

A - fore thine heart  
May wash us all

do re - mis - si - on;  
thy re - demp - ti - on.

it in thy rea - son!

save thee from pri - son.  
com - pu - ta - ti - on,

do re - mis - si - on;  
thy re - demp - ti - on.

it in thy rea - son!

save thee from pri - son.  
com - pu - ta - ti - on,

for I am not ven - gea ble; Gain' ghost - ly en' - mies think on my pas - si - on;  
 in this thing be trea - ta - ble: Love for love by just con - ven - ti - on;

Why art thou un - stable? My blood best tri - a - cle for thy trans - gres - si - on;

Hang this lit - tle ta - ble, Sweet - er than balm 'gain ghost - ly poi - son:  
 From sur - feits re - pro - va - ble, Now, for thy moth - er's meek me - di - a - ti - on

Gain' ghost - ly en' - mies think on my pas - si - on;  
 Love for love by just con - ven - ti - on;

My blood best tri - a - cle for thy trans - gres - si - on;

Sweet - er for than balm 'gain ghost - ly poi - son:  
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for I am not ven - gea ble; Gain' ghost - ly en' - mies think on my pas - si - on;  
 in this thing be trea - ta - ble: Love for love by just con - ven - ti - on;

Why art thou un - sta - ble? My blood best tri - a - cle for thy trans gres - si - on;

Hang this lit - tle ta - ble, Sweet - er than balm 'gain ghost - ly poi - son:  
 From sur - feits re - pro - va - ble, Now, for thy moth er's meek me - di - a - ti - on

1-3. Why -art thou fro - ward, Ah, gen - tle Je - su!  
 4. Be thou not a - fraid  
 5. At her re - quest

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 4. Be thou not a - fraid  
 5. At her re - quest

1-3. sith I am mer - ci - a - ble? Je - su!  
 4. sith I am mer - ci - a - ble.  
 5. be to us mer - ci - a - ble.

1-3. sith I am mer - ci - a - ble?  
 4. sith I am mer - ci - a - ble.  
 5. be to us mer - ci - a - ble.

The repetition of the burden (mm 4-23) is suggested by a custos in the upper part.  
 Since the verse also begins on an A, one may wish to treat it as optional instead.